

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 May 2023
Subject:	Flood and Water Team update (including Section 19 investigations)

Summary:

To provide an update to Committee on the recent work of the Flood and Water team including informing the Committee of the status of all current flood investigations being undertaken in the County.

Actions Required:

Members are asked:

1. To view the current list of completed and active flood investigations online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>
2. Inform Democratic Services in advance if they wish to raise any particular sites at the forthcoming Committee meeting.
3. To note and comment as required on updates provided on the work of the Floods and Water Team.

1. Background

A standing item to inform the Committee on the position of all current Section 19 investigations in the County. Whilst this report highlights the status of such investigations in the county, the opportunity is also being taken to update the committee on recent work and initiatives for which the Floods and Water Team are involved. This will hopefully provide members of the Committee with a much broader understanding on some of the recent work that has been undertaken in the County.

Investigations under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

The Committee will be aware that all such investigations are published on the County Council's website by means of an interactive map, whether the investigation is completed, actively under investigation or awaiting works to mitigate future flooding. When the Floods and Water Team are made aware of flooding that will trigger a S.19 investigation

the database is updated, and as the online system is updated on a daily basis at 7pm, the information relating to that S.19 investigation will be available to view the same evening.

It is a duty under Section 19, Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA) for the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to carry out investigations to identify which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have a flood risk management function in connection with the flood and whether they have exercised, or intend to exercise, that function in response to the flood. To assist with this, Lincolnshire County Council as the LLFA makes recommendations for proportionate works to manage future flood risk, to be delivered by individual RMAs or in partnership as considered appropriate or expedient. Such recommendations are also published although this is over and above the requirements of the F&WMA; all recommendations for mitigation works and the RMA leading those works are available to view on the interactive mapping. If Members have any site-specific questions, they are requested to contact the Flood and Water Manager in advance of the meeting.

To provide an update on the status of S.19 reports since the committee last met in February 2023, please see Table 1 below.

Number of Reports On-going	75 (31.2% decrease since last reported)
Number of completed investigations with considerations still on-going with regards recommendations	229 (6.5 % increase since last reported)
Number of reports commissioned in Q4 (2022 – 2023)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q4 (2021 -2022)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q4 (2020 -2021)	21
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2023 – 2024)	1 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2022 – 2023)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2021 – 2022)	3
Number of Reports Circulated to RMAs for Endorsement	9 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports currently being reviewed / revised by Flood Risk Team	22 (previously 41)
Reports Awaiting Sign-off	3 (same as before)

Table 1: Status of S.19 investigations as 28th April 2023

The total annual number of S.19 investigations and properties affected between 2012/13 and 2022/23 can be seen in table 2 below.

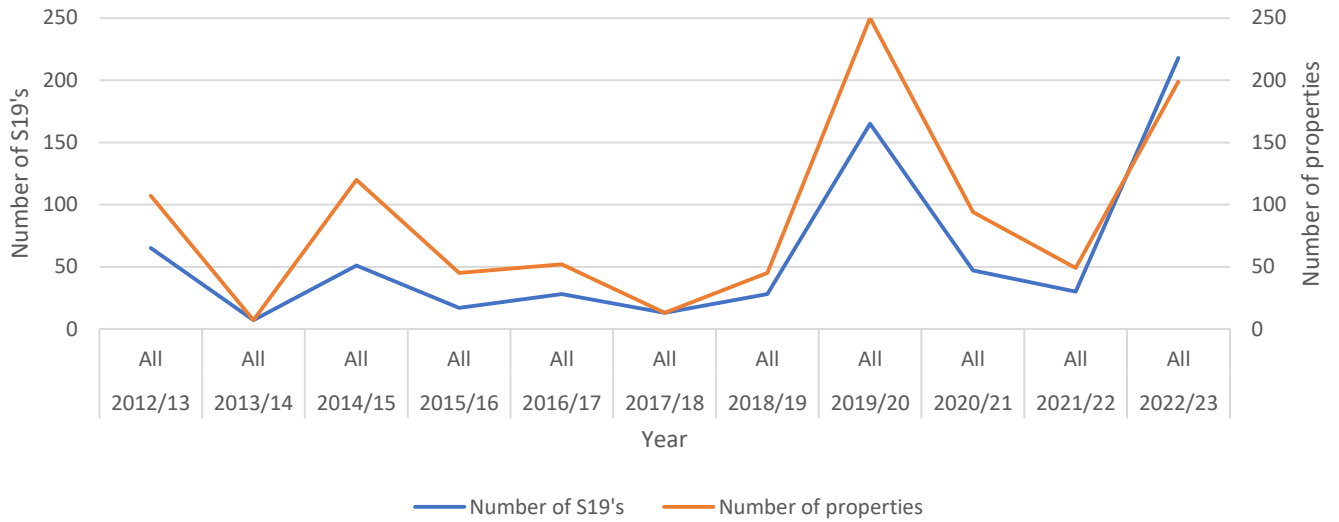


Table 2: Annual totals of Number of S.19 Investigations and properties affected

Near Miss Data

In addition to formal S.19 investigations, data is collected by the floods and water team for the number of near miss reports received. When a report of flooding is received into the Council confirmation is sought from those making the report if water has entered the property. If it is identified water did not enter the property, the occurrence would be reported as a near miss if:

- Water is approaching the property or is against the property but has not gone internal.
- The reporter has requested sandbags
- Internal flooding to a garage (detached or joined)
- Internal flooding to outbuildings
- Internal flooding to conservatories

An exercise has been undertaken within the Floods and Water Team to interrogate records received by the authority back to when the role of Lead Local Flood Authority came into effect in 2012. All reports received as *Flooding – Risk to property/life* were reviewed to see if the above near miss criteria had been met. This process was completed in 2021 and a summary of the near miss data collected is summarised in table 3 below.

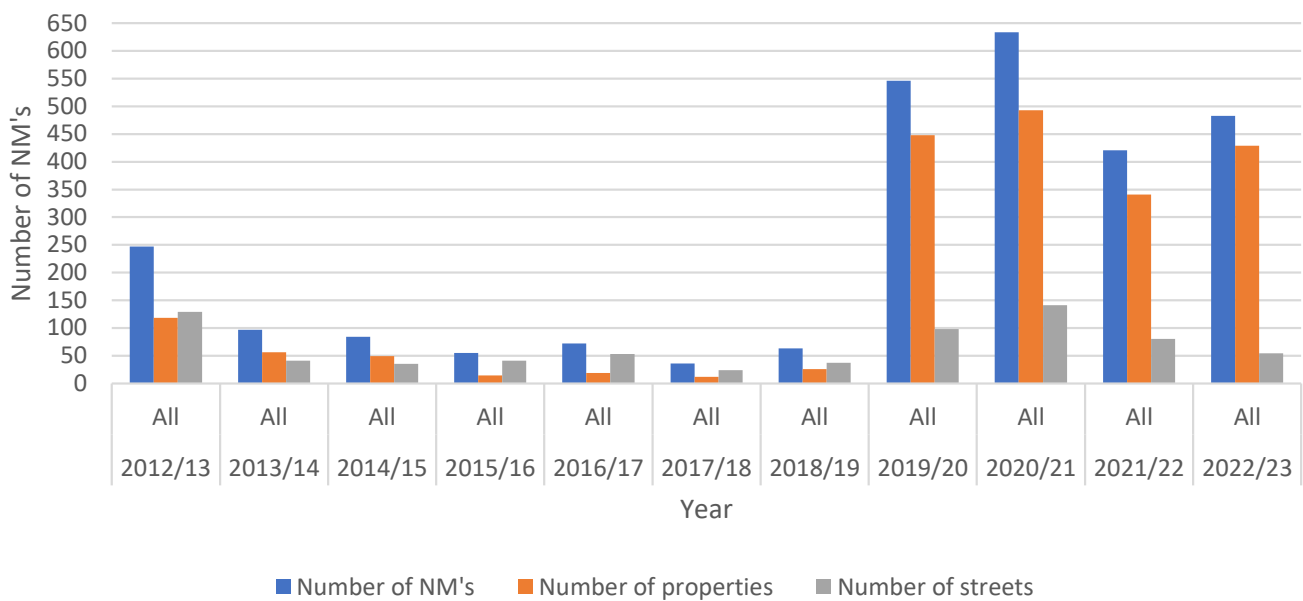


Table 3: Summary of near miss data collated between 2012/13 and 2022/23

The collation of the near miss data can help inform decision making for future programmes of works by taking a proactive, rather than reactive approach to addressing flood risk and drainage issues which have not been identified through the formal Section 19 investigation process. It should be noted however that recommendations and actions will still be undertaken in response to a near miss incident and can be directed to the appropriate department or Risk Management Authority to take appropriate measures, therefore dealing with such incidents in a timely and proportionate manner which does not incur the resource and time pressures of a formal investigation.

Other workstreams

Long Bennington Flood Alleviation Scheme

Following approval of the Outline Business Case for the Long Bennington Flood Alleviation scheme a contract has now been awarded with works due to commence on site from 15th May. The project will continue throughout the summer period with works scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2023. The Long Bennington Flood Alleviation scheme forms part of the Council's 6-year capital flood risk programme and will contribute to addressing surface water flooding issues previously experienced in the village, better protecting in excess of 50 properties.

2. Conclusion

The Flood and Water team will continue to prioritise work on Section 19 investigations, however it should be noted that there is always likely to be great variance in the number and complexity of investigations undertaken which are influenced by weather events. In addition, progress continues to be made on key initiatives such as the Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project, the Lincolnshire Riparian Project and the development of pipeline flood alleviation schemes through the capital flood risk programme as well as more local partnership works. The Flood and Water Team will continue to build on the excellent

working relationships it has with other service areas within Lincolnshire County Council, and with other Lincolnshire Risk Management Authorities to deliver partnership projects for the benefit of residents and communities across the county. Further updates will be presented to future meetings of this committee.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

N/A

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Matthew Harrison, who can be contacted on 07771 837565 or matthew.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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